

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07  
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 USIA-06  
NSC-05 OES-07 OMB-01 SS-15 HEW-04 DODE-00 L-03  
AGRE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 /085 W  
-----060525 191727Z /43

R 191739Z JAN 78  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4938  
INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON  
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 00818

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SNAR, UN, BM  
SUBJECT: BURMA/UNFDAC PROJECT

REF: 77 RANGOON 3891

SUMMARY: DIVISION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS (DND) PROJECT OFFICER  
FOR BURMA VISITED BURMESE FIELD OPERATIONS AND RETURNED  
WITH STRONG IMPRESSION OF GOB COMMITMENT TO DRUG ABUSE  
CONTROL AND WITH APPARENTLY FIRM DETERMINATION TO IMPROVE  
PERFORMANCE OF UN PART OF AGREEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. MR. FRANK VERHAGEN, DND PROJECT OFFICER FOR BURMA/UNFDAC  
PROJECT, PAID HIS FIRST VISIT TO BURMA (22 NOVEMBER - 3  
DECEMBER) SPENDING FIVE DAYS IN RANGOON AND FIVE IN  
BACK COUNTRY, TALKING WITH UN AND BURMESE OFFICIALS IN-  
VOLVED IN SUBJECT PROGRAM. VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN  
QUITE BENEFICIAL TO HIM, WITH RESPECT BOTH TO GAINING  
DEEPER INSIGHT INTO BURMESE MENTALITY AND TO PERCEIVING  
WAYS TO IMPROVE UN'S PERFORMANCE OF ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER  
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AGREEMENT.

2. ON BASIS OF DISCUSSIONS WITH BURMESE OFFICIALS,  
VERHAGEN HAS REPORTED EXTENSIVELY IN UN DRUG CONTROL  
CIRCLES HIS JUDGMENT THAT BURMESE ARE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED  
ABOUT DRUG ABUSE AS A GROWING DOMESTIC PROBLEM AND ARE  
DEEPLY COMMITTED TO GOVERNMENT ACTION AIMED AT REDUCING

THE PROBLEM. WITH RESPECT TO THE BURMA/UNFDAC AGREEMENT, HE BELIEVES THE BURMESE SERIOUSLY PREPARED THEIR PART OF THE PLAN FOR COOPERATIVE ACTION, EXPECTED THAT IT WOULD BE EXECUTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS EXACT TERMS, AND WERE DISAPPOINTED WHEN PERCEIVED BUDGET STRIGENCIES IN UNFDAC EARLY IN 1977 AS WELL AS SOME UN MISREADING OF BURMESE INTENTIONS AND PSYCHOLOGY CAUSED BY BURMESE DELAYS, SLOWED UN PERFORMANCE OF ITS OBLIGATIONS.

3. VERHAGEN EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THESE TWO BRAKES ON FULL PERFORMANCE HAVE NOW BEEN REMOVED: THE NORWEGIAN CONTRIBUTION TO UNFDAC HAS REMOVED THE FUNDING CONSTRAINTS AND LONGER EXPERIENCE HAS IMPROVED THE PERCEPTION BY UN OFFICIALS OF THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE BURMESE AND OF THE TYPE OF UN PERFORMANCE APPROPRIATE TO ACHIEVE DRUG CONTROL OBJECTIVES IN BURMESE SOCIETY.

4. HE WAS AUTHORIZED TO ASSURE THE GOB THAT UNEXPENDED FUNDS ALLOTTED IN THE AGREEMENT TO 1976 AND 1977 WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN 1978 AND SUBSEQUENT YEARS TO FULLY IMPLEMENT THE AGREEMENT. HE REPORTED BURMESE SATISFACTION WITH THIS INFORMATION.

5. HE ALSO REPORTED THAT THE PARTICULAR LOGJAM CONCERNING COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS WAS BROKEN BY THE EXPERT WORK OF UN CONSULTANT PAUL KATZ, CONFIDENTIAL

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WHO ACCOMPANIED HIM FOR TWO DAYS OF HIS VISIT. THE DND EXPECTS TO RECEIVE SHORTLY A GOB DECISION CONCERNING COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT BASED ON THE KATZ REPORT.

6. VERHAGEN REPORTED THAT THE PROBLEM IN THE EDUCATIONAL SECTOR (REFERRED TO IN REFTEL) WAS DISCUSSED AT LENGTH WITH U THAN OO, DIR GEN, DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. BOTH PARTIES REGRETTE PAST DELAYS AND NOTED CONDITIONS WERE NOW APPROPRIATE TO SPEEDY PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION. THE DND HAS NOW SIGNED THE WORK PLAN FOR THE EDUCATIONAL SECTOR DESIGNED ALONG THE LINES DISCUSSED BY VERHAGEN AND THE BURMESE AND HAS SENT IT TO THE GOB FOR SIGNATURE. VERHAGEN NOTED ALSO THAT FUNDING FOR THE HEALTH SECTOR HAS BEEN SECURED. THE LIVESTOCK PROCUREMENT SECTION HAS ENCOUNTERED THE PROBLEM OF FINDING AN ADEQUATE SUPPLIER WHICH FAO IS ATTEMPTING TO RESOLVE. THE DND IS AWAITING THE GOB'S PROPOSED WORK PLAN CONCERNING THE REHABILITATION PART OF THE PROGRAM.

7. SPEAKING OUTSIDE THE PARAMETERS OF HIS PROGRAM, VERHAGEN WAS EMPHATIC IN STATING HIS PERCEPTION THAT THE BURMESE LAW ENFORCEMENT SECTOR REQUIRES MANY MORE GROUND

TRANSPORTATION VEHICLES THAN ARE AVAILABLE AT PRESENT OR ARE TO BE PROVIDED UNDER THE UNFDAC AGREEMENT. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE U.S. MIGHT WISH TO MAKE AN ARRANGEMENT TO CONTRIBUTE THESE THRU THE UNFDAC. MISSION BELIEVES THAT IF SUCH A PRESSING NEED EXISTS IT MIGHT BE WORTH TRYING TO ENCOURAGE UNFDAC TO RESPOND AFFIRMATIVELY FROM ITS GENERAL FUNDS TO A GOB REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL VEHICLES. BEFORE TAKING ANY SOUNDINGS HERE, HOWEVER, MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE AMEMB RANGOON'S EVALUATION OF THIS NEED.

8. VERHAGEN CONCLUDED HIS COMMENTS BY STATING THAT HE IS

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AGRE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 /085 W  
-----060466 191726Z /43

R 191739Z JAN 78  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 GENEVA 00818

MORE THAN EVER CONVINCED OF THE VALIDITY AND USEFULNESS OF THE BURMA/UNFDAC PROGRAM, THAT HE BELIEVES MISUNDERSTANDINGS ON BOTH SIDES HAVE BEEN RECTIFIED, AND THAT WITH THE UNFDAC PROGRAM DIRECTOR NOW IN PLACE, THE PROGRAM IS UNDERWAY IN EARNEST.

9. MISSION WILL FORWARD COPIES OF VERHAGEN'S TRIP REPORT WHEN AVAILABLE.

10. COMMENT. WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT MR. VERHAGEN IS AN ENTHUSIASTIC PERSON BY NATURE, MISSION HAS NO QUESTION THAT HIS VISIT TO THE BURMA PROJECT HAS DEEPENED HIS UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROBLEMS THE PROJECT FACES AND FORTIFIED HIS DETERMINATION TO RESOLVE THEM. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE AMEMB RANGOON'S KEEPING AN EYE ON THIS

PROJECT AND INFORMING US OF ANY SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS  
OR DIFFICULTIES WE SHOULD MENTION TO HIM. END COMMENT.  
VANDEN HEUVEL

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014